

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace, without prejudice, all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (canceled).

15. (previously presented) A method for transmitting messages between at least one main station and a terminal via a telecommunications network, comprising:

 providing a matching device between the at least one main station and the terminal;

 controlling a message exchange using the matching device, the message exchange being controlled in dependence upon at least one input from one of: i) the terminal, and ii) the at least one main station, wherein the message is transmitted in a format that is determined in dependence upon a format request made by one of the terminal and the at least one main station; and

 matching, by the matching device, at least one characteristic for transmission of a message to the at least one input, wherein the at least one characteristic is at least one of a data type, a data format and a transmission mode.

Claims 16-17 (canceled).

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

 converting, by the matching device, messages from the at least one main station into a standardized form readable by the terminal; and

 transmitting the converted messages to the terminal.

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

notifying the matching device of an incoming message for the terminal, by the at least one main station;

if the terminal can be reached, initiating a transmission process for the message to the terminal, according to one of a push transmission mode and a pull transmission mode; and

if the terminal can not be reached, storing the message until the matching device recognizes that the terminal can be reached.

20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

transmitting directly to the terminal, as a function of the input from the terminal, a message for the terminal present in the at least one main station by the matching device when the terminal can be reached; and

notifying the terminal of the availability of the message by the matching device, when the terminal can not be reached.

21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

transmitting a plurality of messages, from different ones of the at least one main station, in a combined form to the terminal by the matching device.

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

segmenting, by the matching device as a function of input from the terminal, individual parts of a message which includes a plurality of elements; and

processing the message by the matching device.

23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

inputting by a user of the terminal the at least one input from the terminal in the form of a data record; and

transmitting the data record to the matching device.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

inputting by a user of the terminal a plurality of different data records for various functionalities that are implementable using the terminal; and
storing the plurality of different data records in a storage device assigned to the matching device.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein each of the plurality of different data records has an assigned identifying character.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising:
selecting, by the user, one of the plurality of different data records;
transmitting the assigned identifying character of the selected data record from the terminal to the matching device;
checking, in the matching device, whether a data record having the assigned identifying character is stored in the storage device; and
if the data record having the assigned identifying character is stored in the storage device, selecting, by the matching device, the data record.

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising:
numbering the plurality of different data records in a sequence in which they are stored in the storage device, identifying characters of each of the plurality of data records being formed from the numbering.

28. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
using protocols in the terminal and the matching device which include functional elements for a predefined transmission mode for the transmission of a message; and
effecting a suitable signaling of the message for the terminal.

29. (previously presented) A matching device for transmitting messages between at least one main station and terminal via a telecommunications network, comprising:

at least one interface to the at least one main station;
an interface to the terminal;
a storage device configured to store at least one input from one of the terminal and the at least one main station for controlling a message exchange between the at least one main station and the terminal;

a control unit configured to control the message exchange as a function of the at least one input, wherein the at least one input includes a format request made by one of the terminal and the at least one main station; and

a matching device configured to match at least one characteristic for transmission of a message to the at least one input, wherein the at least one characteristic is at least one of a data type, a data format and a transmission mode.

30. (previously presented) A method for transmitting messages between at least two main stations and a terminal via a telecommunications network, comprising:

providing a matching device between the at least two main stations and the terminal; and

controlling a message exchange using the matching device, the message exchange being controlled in dependence upon at least one input from one of: i) the terminal, and ii) the at least two main stations.

31. (previously presented) A matching device for transmitting messages between at least two main stations and a terminal via a telecommunications network, comprising:

at least one interface to at least one of the at least two main stations;
an interface to the terminal;
a storage device configured to store at least one input from at least one of the terminal and the at least two main stations for controlling a message exchange between the at least two main stations and the terminal; and

a control unit configured to control the message exchange as a function of the at least one input.

32. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the data format includes a text format.
33. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the data format includes a voice format.
34. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the data type includes a fax data.
35. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the data format includes a graphics format.
36. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the data format includes an e-mail format.